

PULSESD

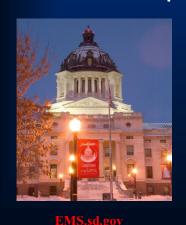
EMS PROGRAM QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

South Dakota Office of Rural Health - Emergency Medical Services

December 2020

Inside This Issue

Director's Welcome	01
EMS Vaccination Plan/ COVID Update/ Close Contact Definition	02
COVID-19: Self 03 Quarantine, Self Isolation	-05
CleanSpace HALO	06
SDAA Conference / CADS	07
EMT Renewal	08
E-Licensing System	09
Cont. Ed. Requirements /	10
New Process for recording cont. Ed.	
2021 EMS Day /	11
Homeland Security	
EMS Spotlight Service 12	2-13



Contact Info

Director's Welcome

By Marty Link—EMS Director

If you're reading this article, you've made it through one of the most notable and rememberable years we've witnessed and/or read about in decades. The silver lining is a vaccine is right around the corner and hopefully by the end of 2021 we will have seen a significant turn of events in the COVID-19 pandemic.

I hope you as well are eyeing 2021 as an opportunity for growth in your respective organization. Year 2021 is a year of opportunity and exponential growth—that opportunity and growth is dependent on your vision, your time, your energy, your attention, and your beliefs.

There are 1,440 minutes in every day—guided by wisdom, just imagine what you can accomplish. Proverbs chapter 3 verse 5 reads, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding...". This is not always easy to do; a lot of times we try to make sense out of a situation or circumstance we are going through. Maybe it was a bad call, a death in the family, a cancer diagnosis. This scripture shows me my own understanding cannot possibly see the bigger picture, and to trust in God.

I hope each of you will reserve some time alone to reflect on the blessings of 2020 and the opportunities for 2021. I wish you all a blessed holiday season and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Marty

14





EMS Vaccination Plan

By Marty Link-EMS Director

The South Dakota Department of Health has placed extensive efforts on creating a statewide vaccination plan. This plan can be found on the SD Department of Health's website. As EMS first responders, we will be among the first to receive the vaccine in Phase 1. EMS Directors should be checking your emails daily for new and updated information on when and where the vaccine will be available. As you can imagine, the vaccination process is strategic and fast moving.

COVID Update

By Marty Link—EMS Director

The EMS Program continues to conduct bi-weekly webinars as part of the COVID response. Archived webinars can be found on the EMS Program's website (ems.sd.gov). Most recently, Halo units, masks, and accessories were shipped to requesting EMS agencies. Agencies in need of additional PPE should contact Julie Smithson (julie.smithson@state.sd.us) in the EMS Program.

Close Contact Definition

By South Dakota Department of Health COVID.sd.gov

Definition

Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

* Individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes). Data is limited, making it difficult to precisely define "close contact;" however, 15 cumulative minutes of exposure at a distance of 6 feet or less can be used as an operational definition for contact investigation. Factors to consider when defining close contact include proximity (closer distance likely increases exposure risk), the duration of exposure (longer exposure time likely increases exposure risk), whether the infected individual has symptoms (the period around onset of symptoms is associated with the highest levels of viral shedding), if the infected person was likely to generate respiratory aerosols (e.g., was coughing, singing, shouting), and other environmental factors (crowding, adequacy of ventilation, whether exposure was indoors or outdoors). Because the general public has not received training on proper selection and use of respiratory PPE, such as an N95, the determination of close contact should generally be made irrespective of whether the contact was wearing respiratory PPE. At this time, differential determination of close contact for those using fabric face coverings is not recommended.



COVID-19: Self-Quarantine, Self-Isolation, and Self-Monitoring Guidance

By South Dakota Department of Health COVID.sd.gov

This guidance is intended for:

- People with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, including persons under investigation, who do not need to be hospitalized and who can receive care at home.
- Household members, intimate partners, and caregivers in a non-healthcare setting of a person with symptomatic, laboratory-confirmed COVID-19.

If you have confirmed COVID-19 infection, please follow the guidance below until you are directed to return to your normal activities. If you are being evaluated for COVID-19, you should follow the prevention steps until your healthcare provider informs you of your test result.

Cleaning and disinfecting while in the home is extremely important. See How to Clean & Disinfect guidance for individuals in Home Isolation/Quarantine guidance.

Prevention steps for people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19: Stay home

• Stay at home except to get medical care. Do not go to work, school, or public areas, and do not use public transportation or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home

• As much as possible, you should stay in a different room from other people in your home. You should also use a separate bathroom, if available.

Wear a facemask

• Wear a facemask when you are in the same room with other people and when you visit a healthcare provider. If you cannot wear a facemask, the people who live with you should wear one while they are in the same room with you.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

• Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue (or into your upper sleeve) when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of used tissues in a lined trash can, and immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer).

Continued on next page



COVID-19: Self-Quarantine, Self-Isolation, and Self-Monitoring Guidance... continued

By South Dakota Department of Health COVID.sd.gov

Wash your hands

• Wash your hands often and thoroughly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available and if your hands are not visibly dirty. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing household items

• You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items with other people in your home. After using these items, you should wash them thoroughly with soap an water.

Monitor yourself for severe symptoms

- Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough, and shortness of breath/difficulty breathing.
- Look for emergency warning signs for COVID-19. If someone is showing any of these signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - New confusion
 - Inability to wake or stay awake
 - Bluish lips or face
- **Before** going to your appointment, call the medical provider. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected.
- Other symptoms can include a combination of two or more of the following: chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea. If you develop symptoms, follow the prevention steps described above, and call your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

Recommended precautions for household members/others that may have close contact with people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19:

If you had close contact with someone who is a confirmed COVID-19 case, you should:

- Monitor your health starting from the last day you had contact with the person and continue for 14 days.
- Watch for these signs and symptoms:
 - * Fever (100.4° F or greater). Take your temperature twice a day.
 - * Cough
 - * Shortness of breath



COVID-19: Self-Quarantine, Self-Isolation, and Self-Monitoring Guidance...continued

By South Dakota Department of Health **COVID.sd.gov**

- Household members should stay in another room or be separated from the patient as much as possible. Household members should use a separate bedroom and bathroom, if available.
 - Prohibit visitors who do not have an essential need to be in the home.
- Household members should care for any pets in the home and restrict pets from access to the patient as much as possible.
- Make sure that shared spaces in the home have good air flow, such as by an air conditioner or an opened window, weather permitting.
- Perform hand hygiene frequently. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (that contains at least 60% alcohol).
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

If you are taking care of a family member who has tested positive for COVID-19:

- Make sure that you understand and can help the patient follow their healthcare provider's instructions for medication(s) and care.
- Help the patient with basic needs in the home and provide support for getting groceries, prescriptions, and other personal needs.
- Monitor the patient's symptoms. If the patient is getting sicker, call his or her healthcare provider and tell them that the patient has laboratory-confirmed COVID-19.
- The patient should wear a facemask when around other people. If the patient is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), you, as the caregiver, should wear a mask when you are in the same room as the patient.
 - Throw out disposable facemasks and gloves after using them. Do not reuse.
- Avoid sharing household items with the patient. You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items. After the patient uses these items, you should wash them thoroughly (see How to Clean & Disinfect guidance)
- Clean all "high-touch" surfaces, such as counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables, every day. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them. (see How to Clean & Disinfect guidance)
 - Wash laundry thoroughly (adhering to precautions in Cleaning Guidance)

Further detail and updates can be found at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html



HALO Respirators for SD Licensed Air Ambulances

By Lance Iversen, Education Coordinator & Data Manager

The Department of Health was able to provide CleanSpace HALO Respirators to SD licensed ground ambulance services free of charge from COVID-19 Federal funding, if the services wanted to receive them.

Of the 125 ground ambulance services, 14 services either replied back they did not want to receive the HALO devices, or did not respond to several emails and phone calls of this project.

The DOH is in the process of ordering a second round of HALO Respirators and accessories and will focus on SD Licensed Air Ambulance Services.

The EMS Program will reach out to the 6 Air Ambulance Services in late December or early January with more information and Hold Harmless Agreement documents if they would like to receive the devices.

Once the second round is distributed (to air services wishing to receive them), if any of the other services who declined initially, or for those who never responded, wishes to receive them, we will look at our inventory of supplies and distribute as we can. This goes for other accessories you may need, such as additional masks, filters, etc.

For product information on the CleanSpace HALO Respirators, please visit their website: https://cleanspacetechnology.com/health/

Additional information/training links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1i6dZO0Tuk

https://cleanspacetechnology.com/health/training-videos/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dPY9cvlzLUs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEo7ldkN5oY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4dSVTCxiik



CLEANSPACE **HALO**

A major innovation in Personal Respiratory Protection for Healthcare.

Designed by biomedical engineers. A lightweight compact powered respirator. Minimal parts. Ergonomic with no cables, hoses or helmets.

- Lightweight (350g/1 lb) and compact
- High protection for biohazards (APF 50 & 1000)
- No hoses or belt mounted battery packs
- Reliable, fast cleaning and disinfection
- CE Mark approved

If you need to order additional HALO blowers, masks, or other accessories, the sales representative for South Dakota is:

Carl Modrick
Director of Sales, Healthcare
carl.modrick@cleanspacetechnology.com
480-319-1995

This company is Australian based and they do not have a US distribution center. If you order, there are a few additional steps that you will have to do (the CleanSpace Sales Team will assist you with this). You will also need to work with the company sales staff for payment options and customs fees—were applicable.



South Dakota Ambulance Association Annual Conference

By South Dakota Ambulance Association

SOUTH DAKOTA AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

February 13th & 14th, 2021 Ramkota Hotel, Pierre

For more information, go to: https://sdaa.wildapricot.org/



The SD Ambulance Association is a professional association of EMS leaders dedicated to the discovery, development, and promotion of excellence in leadership and management in EMS systems, regardless of EMS system model, organizational structure or agency affiliation.

(Click the picture to go to the SD Ambulance Association's website)

Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist Course

By South Dakota Ambulance Association

Pre-Conference Workshop on February 12, 2021, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Pierre, SD) (Must pre-register)

Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist Course

The Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist (CADS) certification is the first offered by NAAC that is specifically geared for EMTs, paramedics and other EMS field practitioners. It is also appropriate for EMS QA/QI personnel, supervisors/managers, compliance officers, billers, and anyone else involved in EMS clinical care or any aspect of the ambulance service revenue cycle.

Every one of your agency's EMS field providers should take the CADS course. Having providers at your agency with the CADS credential shows a true commitment to quality care and top-notch documentation by your agency.

The CADS certification can give providers the edge by:

- Opening new doors
- Advancing their career
- •Improving their status as a healthcare professional

CADS Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist

The CADS course is an all-day course by live instruction, followed by a final exam. The CADS certification is a lifetime certification with no annual recertification requirements. Well worth the investment for a lifetime of better documentation.



EMT Renewal—Opens January 1st to March 31st

By Lance Iversen, Education Coordinator and EMS Data Manager

EMTs who will expire March 31st, 2021 can log into their SD E-Licensing account and apply for recertification beginning January 1st, 2021 until March 31st, 2021.

When you log into your E-Licensing account (https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/
portal#/login), you will click the "Applications" button in your menu items on the left of your page, then click the "SDEMS Application". This application (SDEMS Applications) is an all-in-one application and it will ask you what you want to do. Based on your answer(s), it will open the appropriate application for you to complete.

Once you click on the SDEMS Applications Apply Now button, it will ask you: "I would like to obtain, maintain, or upgrade a South Dakota EMS License", or "I want to record training hours into my account".

This new all-in-one application will be for:

- Applying for your Initial EMR or EMT certification
- Renew your current South Dakota EMR or EMT Certification
- Upgrade your current South Dakota Certification (from the EMR level to the EMT level)
- Reinstate your expired EMR or EMT Certification, and
- Apply for SD EMR or EMT Certification from another state (Reciprocity)
- Recording your Continuing Education Topics and Hours into your Training Record

Within the application to renew your EMT certification, it will ask you to upload a copy of your Driver's License (or other Govt. issued photo ID), a copy of your current CPR Certification, and a copy of your NEW National Registry card (if you renewed your NR certification and plan to use that to renew your SD EMT Certification). If you are unable to scan a copy of these documents, you can take a picture of them as the system will allow you to upload jpg or jpeg images.

<u>IMPORTANT NOTE</u>: Renewing your National Registry certification <u>DOES NOT</u> automatically renew your SD certification. Everyone who wishes to maintain their SD EMR or EMT Certification must log into their E-Licensing account (https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login) and renew during the open recertification period.

Recertification is done online via your E-Licensing account. Please do not send your recertification paper-work via mail as it will be returned to you with instructions to log into your E-Licensing account and complete the renewal application online.

For questions on your EMT Renewal, please contact Bob Hardwick at 605-773-4440 or Bob.Hardwick@state.sd.us or, Lance Iversen at 605-394-6027 or Lance.Iversen@state.sd.us.



E-Licensing System

By Lance Iversen, Education Coordinator and EMS Data Manager

The E-Licensing System is where an EMR or EMT will go to update their demographic information, such as a change in address, phone number(s), email address, etc., and is where you will record your continuing education hours completed (if not entered by your instructor), view your hours and how many more hours you need in each category.

Every EMR and EMT has an account in E-Licensing. If you have never accessed your account, you can go to the bottom of the E-Licensing Public Portal page (https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login) and click the "Forgot Username" link, read and follow the instructions, and the system will send you an automated email that will tell you your username and will have a link to click to reset your password. The automated email will be from a noreply@imagetrend address so if it doesn't come to your inbox, check your junk or spam folder.

If you know your username but don't remember your password, you can click the "Forgot Password?" link and the system will send you an email to reset your password.

Do not create a new account. Duplicate accounts will be deleted and anything you put in your new account will be lost.

To access the E-Licensing Public Portal site, you can click this link:

https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, or you can access it by going to the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, and the EMS Program's website, https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login, and the EMS Program's website, <a href="https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/p

We are also requiring everyone to upload their photo into their profile. To do this, log into your account and click the gray photo icon next to your name and upload your photo. When you do this, your picture will be printed on your new certification card as and additional means of security and verification.

If you need a copy of your card, you can click the gray button next to your name that says "Generate Card". This will open a pdf of your card you can print or save.

If you start and do not finish an application, you will click your Applications button, then below that there will be a button that says Continue with a number behind it (the number represents how many applications you started but did not finish before you logged out of your account). Click the Continue button and find the application you want to finish and click on it.

To see your Training Report, click the "Training" button on your menu list then click "Report". This will open a page and show you all the categories and how many hours you have completed in each and how many more hours you need. When you are on that page, you can use the drop down box to select either "EMR Recertification Hours" or "EMT Recertification Hours" and press the gray GO button to refresh the page, then click the small pdf icon and that will open a pdf of all your courses you have completed in your account, and you can print or save that pdf in needed.



Continuing Education Requirements / Changes—EMR & EMT

By Lance Iversen, Education Coordinator and EMS Data Manager

Due to COVID-19 and the CDC recommendations of social distancing, many EMS providers are finding it difficult to obtain in-person or live EMS related training courses.

The EMS Program has waived the number of live or In-Person hours for SD EMT and EMR Recertification until further notice. All hours can now be obtained via online or remote learning.

As a reminder, we require 20 hours of continuing education for EMTs in the following categories (following the National Registry National Component topic requirements):

Airway/Respiration/Ventilation – 1.5 Hours

Cardiovascular - 6 Hours

Trauma - 1.5 Hours

Medical - 6 Hours

Operations – 5 Hours

For EMRs, we have <u>reduced the hours from 16 to 8</u> (following the National Registry National Component topic requirements):

Airway/Respiration/Ventilation - 1 Hour

Cardiovascular - 2.5 Hours

Trauma – 0.5 Hour

Medical – 3 Hours

Operations – 1 Hour

If you will be maintaining your National Registry certification, you will need to follow their requirements.

<u>Please Note:</u> Renewing your National Registry Certification <u>does not automatically renew your SD EMR or EMT Certification</u>. Everyone will need to log into their E-Licensing account (https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login) and apply for recertification during the open recertification period for their level.

New Process to record your continuing education hours

By Lance Iversen, Education Coordinator and EMS Data Manager

Beginning December 20th, when you log into your E-Licensing account, the form you have been using to record your continuing education classes completed called "Form to Record Your Continuing Education Courses (topics & hours) Completed" will be gone. We have incorporated this into the new all-in-one application called "SDEMS Application". You will click on this application and answer the questions and it will open the application to record your training hours into your account.



2021 EMS Day On The Hill

By Maynard Konechne, SDEMSA Political Committee



2021 EMS Day

Monday, February 1, in Pierre, SD

Committee Meetings at 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Picture with the Governor (if she is available)

Session starts at 2:00 p.m.

Social at Ramkota in the Lake Sharpe Room from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Sponsored by: South Dakota Emergency Medical Services Association; Emergency Medical

Instructor Society; and South Dakota Ambulance Association

All EMS providers are welcome to attend.

Any questions contact: Maynard J. Konechne

Cell 605-730-0462 or e-mail: mjkemtkc@hotmail.com

Homeland Security Grant Funding

By June Snyder, DPS—Office of Homeland Security

Homeland Security Open Application Period Starts January 1, 2021

The open application period to apply for 2021 State Homeland Security grant funding starts January 1, 2021; completed applications must be received by February 14, 2021 at 5:00 pm central standard time.

Applications will be accepted through the EDGAR (Electronic Database for Grant Application & Reporting) system. All applications must have a Homeland Security nexus and follow grant terms and conditions. The link to EDGAR is: https://sddps.intelligrants.com/.

Examples of allowable expenses for private, non-profit Emergency Medical Services include radios compatible with the State Radio system, pagers for 1st responders, programming, radio signal amplifiers, repeaters, generators for public safety answering points (PSAP), and interoperable communication training and exercises.

Funding for projects is expected to become available in September 2021.

For more information, please contact the SD Office of Homeland Security at 605-773-3450.





Spotlight EMS

By Brian Hambeck from Spearfish Ambulance

Spearfish Emergency Ambulance Service, Inc. (SEAS) has been community-centered from its inception. The service was founded in 1975 and established BLS care for Spearfish and the Northern Lawrence County area. It began as a fully volunteer-based service and relied on donations from the community to purchase vehicles and equipment. Pancake feeds, dance events, and door-to-door fundraising gave the service a solid start and a strong connection to the community.

Currently, Spearfish Ambulance Service maintains 2 full crews with ALS personnel 24 hours a day to cover a 600 square mile area and respond to over 2,400 calls a year. These on-call crews combine volunteers and full-time paid personnel. Several members stand ready to respond when call volume exceeds the on duty crews abilities. The service also offers an on-call intercept program to provide paramedic capabilities to the surrounding communities when called upon.

Locally, Spearfish Ambulance Service is known as a leader in education opportunities. The service is an AHA Certified Training Center and offers ACLS, PALS, CPR, AED and First Aid courses throughout the year. An EMT class has been taught annually since 1991, introducing many new EMTs into the field. The AEMT course offered by Spearfish Ambulance Service is expanding as well and is transitioning into an annual offering. Several refresher courses are offered throughout the year and are open to anyone seeking continuing education. Monthly trainings keep members up-to-date on their knowledge and skills.

The ambulance service, as well as its individual members, have a strong relationship with the community. The past year included school visits, free EMS Week CPR/AED training for community members, seat-belt checkpoint with fire & police, and joint-training exercise with lifeguards at the local waterpark. Spearfish Ambulance Service is known for their successful blood drives. What began as one annual drive has evolved into multiple blood drives each year. In fact, a Battle of the Badges between EMS, fire & police is held annually in July. It has become a friendly competition to see which agency can bring in the most donors.

Spearfish Ambulance Service was formed out of the love that a few men and women had for their beloved town. A few citizens recognized a need for emergency medical service in their community and went into action. At the core of this organization is a highly-trained team of Emergency Medical Providers that have one goal in mind - serve the community to the best of their ability. This happens both on and off the job. The belief of Spearfish Ambulance Service is that quality comes from the heart. Pride, dedication, commitment, and service are but a few of the qualities found with this team. It is this same passion to serve their fellow man, which has been woven into the daily operations of the service.

Although I could cite several examples of why Spearfish Emergency Ambulance Service is a worthy community service agency, but here is one example of the high quality and compassionate service provided by the dedicated personnel working for Spearfish Ambulance. After all, it's the people that make the service, not the equipment.

(continued on the next page)



Spotlight EMS (continued)

By Brian Hambeck, Director of Spearfish Ambulance

On a nice spring day in May Spearfish Ambulance Service was dispatched to a 5 year old little boy who wrecked on his bicycle and had his foot caught between the pedal and frame. The crew worked on freeing him from the bike and called the ambulance office for some help. Andy called one of the local bicycle shops and spoke to one of the technicians. He asked if he could grab some tools and he would be there in 2 minutes to pick him up.

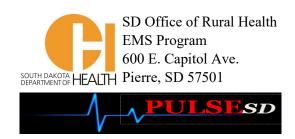
To pass the time and distract their young patient, crews improvised water guns with bottles of water and syringes. A water fight between the boy and his sister ensued. Soon all were laughing while they enjoyed squirting each other and crew members. Eventually, the crew was able to dismantle parts from the small bike and free the young boys foot. Fortunately the child was not hurt but they discovered that it was his birthday and he was understandably saddened by the incident.

Without hesitation, the crew and Andy took the bicycle back to the office and spent the next hour reassembling and cleaning the small bike. Other crew members used colored markers and made the boy a birthday card that was signed by everyone on duty that day, and another member went to Dairy Queen to get him an ice cream cake to help him celebrate his special day. The crews delivered the bicycle, birthday card and cake to the young boy and his family. While they were there they also fitted and gave bicycle helmets to him and his little sister.

You can't describe the thrill and thanks that the family showed the ambulance crew that day. The EMT's and Paramedics were also warmed by their own gift and thankful that they had the opportunity to help make this boy feel special on a special day.

I'm sure that every EMS agency has a similar story. We are viewed as HEROES to many in our communities but you would be hard pressed to find an EMS provider who would acknowledge this title. It is what we do daily for our patients and others that make us who we are.





Questions or More Information? Contact:

Marty Link EMS Director 4101 W. 38th Street, Suite 102 Sioux Falls, SD 57106 605-367-5372 (office) 605-941-1209 (cell) 605-367-5366 (fax) Marty.Link@state.sd.us

Julie Smithson

Western Specialist 909 East St. Patrick Street, Suite 4 Rapid City, SD 57701 605-394-5113 (office) 605-941-0762 (cell) 605-394-1677 (fax) Julie.Smithson@state.sd.us

Lance Iversen

Educational & Professional Standards Coordinator State EMS Data Manager 909 East St. Patrick Street, Suite 4 Rapid City, SD 57701 605-394-6027 (office) 605-394-1677 (fax) Lance.Iversen@state.sd.us

Bob Hardwick

Central Specialist, Recertifications 600 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501 605-773-4031 (office) 605-773-4440 (office) 605-773-5683 (fax) Bob.Hardwick@state.sd.us

Rebecca Baird

Trauma Program Manager Eastern EMS Specialist 4101 W. 38th Street, Suite 102 Sioux Falls, SD 57106 605-367-8371 (office) 605-295-3148 (cell) Rebecca.Baird@state.sd.us

EMS Program Website

SD DOH Website

South Dakota State Govt. Website

E-Licensing Public Portal website

ImageTrend Elite ePCR website